

December 12, 2005

Dear Parents:

The PTA convened a special membership meeting on Saturday, December 10.

As we have done on a regular basis since this crisis began last spring, the PTA officers sought from the membership a direction and verification of actions that reflect the will of the parents, who must require from the PTA the policies and actions that provide for the best interest of the children. On this occasion the membership was informed that JEI had ignored all appeals, recommendations, and solutions from the PTA and had voted unanimously to approve the sale of the school, despite the absence (still) of any solution to the fiscal deficit. There is not plan for a new location: no knowledge regarding the cost, no assessment of educational value, no enrollment prospects for a new location.

Several Trustees had verified to the PTA that the financial reserves would last for at least six more years, so the PTA had also suggested that the sale be frozen until JEI and the PTA together could devise, implement, and test PTA solutions to the fiscal problems and reduced enrollment. The PTA even offered to take responsibility for the successful outcome of such solutions, which would generate more than enough revenue and cost savings to eliminate the entire JEI deficit. In spite of all these offers to work together and solve problems together, the Trustees voted unaminously for the third and final time to sell the school, and they excluded the school principals from observing the vote and excluded the principals from any discussion before the vote.

Since the contract to sell the school requires court approval, the PTA officers asked the membership to decide to either give up and stop all opposition, or to oppose the contract of sale in court. A paper was circulated among the parents that described the court approval process and related legal processes. It should be noted that the processes approved by the PTA membership at this meeting did not include authorization to file lawsuits. If necessary, such actions can be taken at a later date if the membership so decides.

The teachers were prohibited from voting. Principal Toki is expected to send me a note this week explaining why the teachers were so prohibited from PTA participation on this occasion.

A long discussion of the many issues preceded the vote. The membership also discussed the possibility of requiring a super majority (such as a 2/3 vote) to authorize the opposition in Court. The membership decided to take the vote on the basis of a simple majority, but 38 members voted to oppose the sale in court and 14 voted against such opposition - a result that exceeds a super majority.

Each of the various steps taken to oppose that sale over the past months have consistently been approved by an overwhelming majority of PTA members. The PTA officers remain confident, therefore, that we are proceeding according to the will of the parents and therefore the best interest of the children.

Thank you for your continued interest and participation.

Sincerely,

EF Jachmann

PTA President